



News

From the Office of Mayor Gregory A. Ballard

City of Indianapolis

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2009

Pledge to Pitch In: Join the Great Indy Cleanup!



Pledge to Pitch In this month by committing to help clean up and beautify your neighborhood. Visit <http://www.indy.gov/mayor> and let us know what you are doing to help out!

This month begins the 33rd annual Great Indy Cleanup (GIC), a Marion County-wide effort led by Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. (KIB) that engages hundreds of neighborhood organizations to pick up litter in their surrounding areas.

Great Indy Cleanup Kick-Off

Mayor Ballard, city officials and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful supporters will host a kick-

off event at the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School parking lot, 3960 Meadow Dr., at 8:00 a.m. on Sat. April 25.

In addition, the top two high schools who participated in the city's first "Great Indy Butt Out," a competition challenging students to pick up cigarette butt litter, will be acknowledged at the kick-off.

The "Great Indy Butt Out," sponsored by the

City of Indianapolis and KIB, was created to bring attention to the dangers cigarette butts place on our environment.

Pledge to Pitch In!

Mayor Ballard is asking all citizens to help make this year's cleanup the biggest ever and "Pledge to Pitch In" in April by recruiting friends and family to pick up litter and beautify your area.

Once you've filled your bag, just place it at your curb or in your trash receptacle for your weekly trash pick up and bask in the great feeling that YOU helped make a difference in your community.

Please also take a moment to visit our [web-site](http://www.indy.gov/mayor) or call 327-5300 and let us know what you are doing to help.

What else can I do to help with the Great Indy Cleanup?

Don't have a neighborhood group? Every citizen can still do their part by participating in the "Every Litter Bit Helps" program!

Starting April 6, you can stop by any Marion County YMCA, Papa John's Pizza or Indianapolis Marion County Public Library to get free supplies: a special Great Indy Cleanup trash bag and gloves.

Participate in the April 25th citywide cleanup by filling your Great Indy Cleanup trash bag and simply place it at your curb or in your trash receptacle for your weekly trash pick up.

Not sure if your neighborhood is registered or have more questions? Contact Tammy Stevens at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc., 317-264-7555, x116 or tstevens@kibi.org for more information.

The Great Indy Cleanup runs weekends from April through October. For more information about cleanups throughout the summer visit www.kibi.org/programs. ●

Mayor Ballard Announces Inaugural Bike Ride

Event, Scheduled for May 16, Will Showcase New On-Street Bike Lanes Connecting Downtown To East And West Sides of Indianapolis

On March 20, Mayor Greg Ballard, joined by Marion County Health Department Director Dr. Virginia Caine, Nancy Tibbett, Executive Director of the Indiana Bicycle Coalition, and John Marron, Co-Chair of Health by Design, announced the Mayor's Inaugural Bike Ride.

"To celebrate the completion of our first continuous on-street bike lanes in Indianapolis, and to offer citizens a chance to get acquainted with these new bike lanes, I am inviting all of Indianapolis to join me at Veteran's Memorial Plaza in the heart of downtown, on Sat. May 16, 2009 for the Mayor's Inaugural Bike Ride," said Mayor Ballard. "More bicycle traffic on

Indy streets means healthier people, cleaner air, and less congestion."

The event will incorporate two routes, both designed to highlight the connectivity of new on-street bike lanes with existing trails and green space and to encourage participation from all ages and all ability levels.

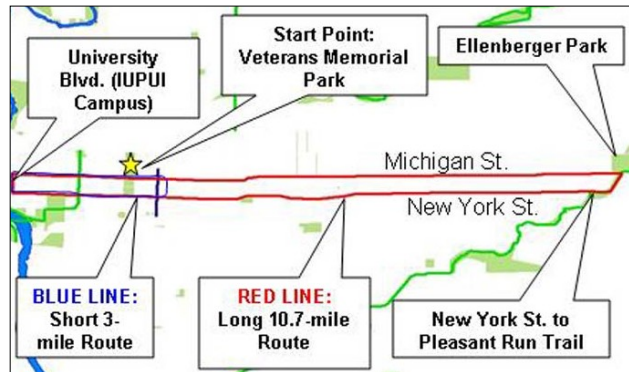
A 10.5 mile loop will incorporate the bike lanes and the use of the Pleasant Run Greenway Trail, and a 3 mile loop will incorporate the bike lanes and downtown's Cultural Trail.

Registration is free and open to anyone who wishes to tour the city from a new perspective. Helmets are required.

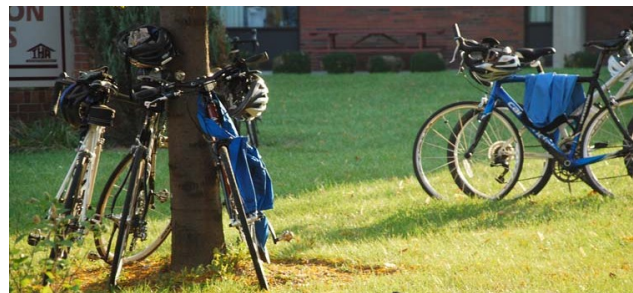
The event will begin

at 1 p.m. on May 16, 2009 at Veteran's Memorial Plaza downtown. Same-day registration will open on site at noon.

Pre-registration is open now by visiting www.healthbydesignonline.org or www.sustainindy.org ●



More bicycle traffic means healthier people, cleaner air, and less congestion. Join Mayor Ballard for the Inaugural Mayor's Bike Ride at 1 p.m. on May 16. To pre-register, visit www.healthbydesignonline.org.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR SAFE CYCLING AND DRIVING

SAFETY TIPS FOR CYCLISTS

- Wear a helmet.
- Be visible and predictable – wear bright colors, ride straight and in a predictable manner.
- Use hand signals to indicate turns and stops.
- Use a mirror to see traffic approaching from behind.
- Ride with traffic, not against it.
- Follow traffic rules as if you're driving a car.
- Ride as close to the right-hand side of the road as practical.
- Use a light if cycling when dark.

SAFETY TIPS FOR MOTORISTS

- Be alert and remember that bicycles are more difficult to see than cars.
- Don't honk – it can startle a cyclist and cause him to swerve.
- Don't take a cyclist's speed for granted – many travel 25-30 mph or faster.
- Yield to oncoming bikes when turning, just as you do for cars.
- When passing, slow down and allow plenty of room (at least 3 feet) to clear the cyclist.
- When exiting a car, use mirrors to check for cyclists before opening door.



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Indianapolis Fire Department Perspective: *Fire at Cosmopolitan on the Canal*



At 3 a.m. on Thursday March 12 the Indianapolis Fire Department engaged in a firefight at the Cosmopolitan on the Canal project site that would last 30 hours. The fire was later ruled an arson by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In the early morning hours of Thursday March 12, the Indianapolis Fire Department engaged in a firefight that would last 30 hours. As firefighters arrived on the scene of Cosmopolitan on the Canal at Michigan and Senate Avenues, they set in motion a display of bravery, tenacity and courage. Years of training in mock scenarios with attempts at fabricated stress doesn't compare to the real thing. But it did prepare them.

The disappointment of losing two and a half of the buildings, didn't last long. Post-incident analysis exposed what they already knew. Training is important, and pre-planning and communication are key. They were prepared and they stayed safe.

Nine aerial ladders, thirteen engines and 125 firefighters laid out thousands of feet of

hose along the downtown streets. Millions of gallons of water were thrown at the fire and came back as icicles in the freezing temperatures. The equipment was covered in ice.

Walking around on the slick

streets was treacherous at best. Faces were frozen and bodies were tired. But they chipped away, a little at a time, trying to get ahead of a fire that was moving faster than they could work.

Through it all, the firefighters of IFD did what they do best - save lives and protect property.

The Indianapolis Fire Department works 24 hour shifts with 48 hours off. They have 34 houses that work an A, B, C rotation seven days a week, 365 days a year. No two houses are alike. No two shifts are alike. But on that day, IFD was one. Performing like a well oiled machine, 125 firefighters who understood the principle of "high risk - low benefit" worked together to fight the blaze, which was later be ruled an arson.

Concentrating on what was important they saved a historic building, a slew of residences and reported no injuries to civilians or firefighters. ●



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DPW Aggressively Seeks to Improve Service to Customers



On March 2, Mayor Greg Ballard honored members of DPW District One Garage team during a Mayor's Performance Awards ceremony. These recipients of the Mayor's Performance Awards were nominated for having made a significant contribution to improving the performance of City/County Government in association with the implementation of the Six Sigma process.

Indy residents rely on the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) every time they take out the trash, drive to work or turn on the water.

DPW is responsible for services that are among residents' top concerns including building and designing city streets, bridges and sidewalks; making sure that streets are cleared of snow; repairing potholes; ensuring the proper collection and disposal of trash and keeping sewers flowing and

wastewater treatment plants running.

Because residents depend on DPW for quality, efficient service, DPW is committed to finding ways to provide services better, faster and cheaper. As a result, DPW management staff has been aggressively working to evaluate both the department's organizational structure and methods for offering better services.

"An examination and refining of delivery processes is impor-

tant," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "We can save taxpayer money and provide better and faster customer service to the citizens by constantly striving to improve processes and find efficiencies."

In addition to a total reorganization of the departmental structure to eliminate inefficiencies, several program improvements are beginning to be realized through the utilization of Six Sigma methodologies and expansion of public/private partnerships with companies like MacAllister Machinery Company, Inc. and Eli Lilly who are assisting in improving trash and pothole repair services.

"Public/private collaborations have proven key to overcoming many challenges that we face," said DPW Director David Sherman. "We're aggressively working to use every tool at our disposal; IndyStat, Six Sigma, studying what other cities have done, etc. to find ways to improve services to our customers. ●

Tune in to Indy's NEW Spanish TV Program: **Somos Indianapolis (We are Indianapolis)**



The aim of this new program is to provide the city's Latino residents with up-to-date information on events and issues occurring in Indianapolis.

Viewers of the show will receive useful information on, but not limited to, public safety, equal employment/affirmative action policies, business/economic development and upcoming events.

'Somos Indianapolis' is Available On:

- Brighthouse Networks Channel 17
- Comcast Channel 28
- AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Visit www.indygov.org/TVSA for air dates and times.

Mayor's Night Out Perry Township • April 2



Citizens are proud of their city, but they live in their neighborhoods.

WHO: Mayor Greg Ballard and City Department Directors/Leaders

WHAT: Mayor's Night Out Question and Answer Session

WHERE: Christ United Methodist Church
8540 US 31 S

WHEN: April 2, 2009; 6–7 p.m.

For more information, please contact Gary Loveless at 327-4838 or gloveles@indygov.org

Mayor Ballard's Ex-Offender Re-Entry Program

Help us Coordinate Delivery of Services by Registering Online

Each year, more than 5,000 ex-offenders are released from prison and return home to Marion County. A significant number eventually end up back in the correctional system. To break this cycle and help ex-offenders transition into positive roles in our community, the City of Indianapolis continues to partner with local businesses to connect pre-qualified ex-offenders with employers and job opportunities.

Through the efforts of Mayor

Greg Ballard, the intent of the Ex-Offender Re-Entry initiative is to coordinate delivery of services to previously incarcerated individuals returning to Marion County.

In order to complete this task, we ask that service providers go to Mayor Ballard's [web-site](#) and register with us.

Through this registration process we can refer others to you and include you in our reports on service delivery to Marion County.

In addition, if you have suggestions that can enhance our efforts or you would like to invite Khadijah Muhammad, Director of Offender Re-entry to visit your agency or speak at a gathering, please utilize this process as well.

Businesses: there is also a link on Mayor Ballard's [website](#) for you to register if you have employment opportunities and would like to explore hiring pre-qualified ex-offenders. ●



Upcoming Events:

Re-Entry Service Provider Forum
April 28, 2009

Re-Entry Resource Fair
May 12–13, 2009
8 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Indiana State Fairgrounds

Details on these two events will be posted on our [website](#) in the near future.

Proposed Partnership Will Bring Jobs to Indianapolis

World Connect at AmeriPlex Focuses on Environmentally Sensitive and Sustainable Design

A new public-private partnership will work to attract approximately 1,700 new jobs to Indianapolis in key sectors such as logistics and advanced manufacturing industries while targeting firms developing emerging clean and green technologies.

Mayor Greg Ballard recently announced a partnership to work with Holladay Properties to develop a 210-acre campus business park called World Connect at AmeriPlex.

The plan is designed to grant Holladay Properties a 10-year tax abatement for nine buildings certified by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to be constructed in the next five years.

A multi-million dollar floor of new tax generation is also part of the agreement with the developer.

With approximately three million square feet of total space, the campus offers facilities ranging from 60,000 to 950,000 square feet. Additionally, the overall capital investment will be in excess of \$100 million.

Convenient access to the new Indianapolis International Airport and many major highways makes AmeriPlex an ideal place for companies.

Additionally, Holladay Properties has been a leader in green building practices for many years. Since its inception, AmeriPlex has focused on environmentally sensitive and sustainable design.

The developer's green initiatives align with Mayor Ballard's commitment to sustainable development. ●



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Storm Drain Marking Program Promotes Pollution Prevention



Volunteers from Play it 4ward, a community outreach group of 14- to 17-year-olds, mark storm drains in Pike Township.

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) is inviting community volunteers to participate in the city's Storm Drain Marking Program.

Volunteers are enlisted to mark storm drains with colorful labels that say, "No Dumping – Drains to Stream," or a similar message informing people that the drain connects to a waterway.

"People often don't realize

that what goes down storm drains isn't treated before flowing into our streams," said Steve Nielsen, Chief Engineer of DPW.

"Storm drain markers are a visual reminder that dumping paint, motor oil, trash and other items down storm drains can have a negative affect on water quality in our city and the communities downstream from us."

If your organization would

like to participate in a storm drain marking event, you will be provided with the tools and information to complete the project. At least 10 volunteers are needed for each three- to four-hour event.

Please contact stormdrain@indygov.org for more information or to organize an event.

Everyone can help keep common pollutants out of stormwater by adopting these practices:

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, and don't apply them prior to rainy weather.
- Clean up after your pets and dispose of pet waste properly by putting it in the trash or flushing it down the toilet.
- Use a car wash instead of washing your car in your driveway.
- Clear trash and debris from storm drains.
- Dispose of paint, motor oil and cleaning products properly. Call the ToxDrop program at 327-4TOX or visit www.sustainindy.org/toxdrop.cfm for more information. ●

Front Porch Alliance and IPS To Host Fatherhood Summit

The Mayor's Front Porch Alliance is partnering with IPS to hold a summit that will focus on ways in which fathers can get involved in their children's education. At the event, there will also be community resource booths available that cover health, education, employment and other services.

The Front Porch Alliance wants to keep you up to date on opportunities to stay engaged in our community. Please visit our website to learn more.

<http://www.indy.gov/eGov/Mayor/Neighborhoods/FrontPorchAlliance/Pages/asp.aspx>

WHAT:	Fatherhood Summit
WHEN:	Saturday April 25, 2009 10 a.m.—2 p.m. (Free lunch provided)
WHERE:	IPS School #51 3426 E. Roosevelt Ave.



Thinking about moving downtown?

Save on gas and skip the commute!

Think about moving downtown to experience the convenience of living in the heart of all the action. This month you can tour seven of Downtown's most exclusive condo addresses at the **Indianapolis Monthly Downtown Condo Tour** April 17 & 18.

On April 17 from 5 - 9 p.m., enjoy complimentary beverages and appetizers from Indy's favorite dining spots while touring the condos. Tour-goers must be 21 years of age or older. Tickets are available for \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door.

April 18's tour features all seven condos and is open to the public from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$10 in advance or at the door. Buy tickets online at www.indianapolismonthly.com/promotions/promotion.aspx?id=77218.

Downtown living offers access to a great combination of amenities and lifestyle within an easy walk. It also offers less commute time, less gasoline consumption and less pollution.

Reuse of existing buildings and higher density reduces the amount of land and materials used, which minimizes the impact on the environment.

Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. is also hosting a private **Realtor Condo Tour Preview** April 14.

Check out Downtown's newest residential properties, learn about the historic Downtown neighborhoods and more at www.indydt.com. ●

The tour includes several new condominium developments and some new models:

- **3Mass** - <http://3mass.com> - New!
- **429 on the Park** - <http://www.429onthepark.com> - Models completed!
- **Landmark at Lockerbie** - <http://www.landmarkatlockerbie.com> - New!
- **Meridian Arch** - <http://www.hearthview.com>
- **Meridian at 21** - <http://meridian-21.com>
- **The Maxwell** - <http://www.themaxwellcondos.com> - New!
- **The Villaggio** - <http://www.pagepointecondos.com>

Sustainable Solutions to Beautify Property, Manage Stormwater



Rain gardens slow and absorb stormwater, which reduces flooding.

April showers not only bring May flowers, they also bring homeowners more than one way to think green when it comes to rainwater, also called stormwater.

Homeowners can beautify their property, collect and reuse stormwater, and even reduce flooding by implementing creative and sustainable green solutions.

Rain barrels are large containers connected to downspouts that collect and hold

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rainwater. The collected water can then be used to water flowers, trees, lawns and even indoor plants. It also can help reduce water usage and water bill costs by utilizing the captured water during dry spells. Using one or more rain barrels also can help reduce flooding and drainage problems. Barrels are typically made of plastic or wood and can be purchased at some lawn and garden stores. Homeowners can also build a rain barrel using materials available at hardware stores.

Rain gardens, also known as bioretention systems, are another sustainable solution that can beautify property and manage excess stormwater. These gardens are planted in low lying areas with deep-rooted plants that thrive on and absorb water.

They are designed to catch stormwater runoff from downspouts, driveways, parking lots and even roads, which reduces the amount of runoff and pollution that flows into storm drains and into our waterways.

Soil and flowers filter trash and other pollutants from stormwater before it enters the groundwater system. Rain gardens enhance air quality, help reduce flooding and can even improve property values through attractive landscaping.

These gardens can be planted with flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. Native plants are recommended, because they generally are more tolerant of the local climate.

For more information, visit www.sustainindy.org/green-infrastructure.cfm. ●

Two Mayor's Charters Recognized as Early College Models

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett recognized Lawrence Early College High School and Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School as Early College model sites at the March meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education.

The schools, both Mayor-sponsored charter schools, were named endorsed model sites for [Early College High Schools](#) by the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL). This endorsement came after CELL's evaluation of early college high schools across the state of Indiana. Both schools were two of only six schools from the state to receive this recognition.

At Lawrence Early College High School, students have the opportunity to earn an Associate's degree while concurrently

acquiring a core 40 diploma from high school. The school pays tuition for any student enrolled in the school seeking dual credit from Ivy Tech Community College. The curriculum for juniors and seniors at the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated school is exclusively college-level and provided by adjunct faculty from Anderson University. Tuition is paid for by the school, and 100 percent of Tindley's 2008 graduates enrolled in selective colleges and universities.

"Lawrence Early College and Charles A. Tindley serve as examples of what high schools can accomplish," said Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard. "These schools are shattering the myth that some students cannot achieve at high levels, including successfully meeting rigorous

college standards while in high school."

According to CELL, Early College High Schools are small schools that target students traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education and allow them to earn both a high school diploma and up to two years of credit toward a college degree. Paired with a college or university partner, these high schools are places for rigorous teaching and learning designed to help young people progress toward the education and experience they need to succeed in a 21st-century global economy. Early College High Schools make college an option for all students by creating an accessible, affordable bridge to higher education. ●

About Lawrence Early College High School for Science and Technologies

[Lawrence Early College High School](#) serves grades nine through twelve and provides an academically rigorous high school experience that allows students, especially students who might not thrive in a traditional high school setting, to earn college credit while in high school.

The school is specifically designed for students who may be the first in their families to attend college, are capable of success in college but who might not have performed to their potential yet, need the support of a small school environment focused on non-traditional learning activities, and/or may need additional resources to pay for the high cost of a college education.

About Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School

[Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School](#), which serves grades six through twelve, offers a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum that requires students to take college courses while enrolled in high school. Modeled after the nationally-successful

Accelerated Schools PLUS model, every student is treated as gifted, high expectations are set for each student, and the school does not offer tracked or remedial courses.

Tindley is one of the first accelerated middle/high schools in the country and is a pilot school for the National Center for Accelerated Schools.

In 2008-2009, fifty-three percent of students at Tindley qualified for free or reduced-price lunch, and ninety-nine percent were students of color.

About Mayor-Sponsored Charter Schools

[Mayor-sponsored charter schools](#) are secular, tuition-free public schools that are freed from many of the regulations governing traditional public schools. They control their own curriculum, staffing, organization and budget.

In exchange for this freedom, they must meet high academic and organizational standards. The Mayor's Office currently oversees seventeen charter schools in Indianapolis.

Indy Parks Teams Up With Charter School to Expand Learning Opportunities



Pedro Padilla works on an art project at Garfield Park—an opportunity made possible through a partnership between Indy Parks and Fountain Square Academy.

In 2009 and beyond, Indy Parks is growing the number and variety of arts programs it offers.

One way it has expanded is through a unique partnership with the GEO Foundation and the Fountain Square Academy charter school, located at 1615 S. Barth Ave.

Through this relationship Indy Parks provides needed resources for art and recreational play, and in turn its facilities at Garfield Park are being used more efficiently.

The students utilize the park's arts center for arts programs and the family center gymnasium for P.E. classes.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, Fountain Square students in fifth and sixth grades and in high school go to Garfield Park for art and

physical education classes.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, seventh and eighth graders go to the park for music and gym. The school's current building does not have a gym nor the capacity for art classrooms, making this partnership a win-win for both the school and Indy Parks – it extends hours for use of Garfield Park facilities and provides a fun, safe environment for additional educational and recreational opportunities for Fountain Square students.

"It's a great partnership for so many reasons," said Fountain Square Academy Principal Keena Foster.

"The kids have an opportunity to go outside the walls of the schools; it's like a field trip. It allows them to

have gym and music classes and exposure to the arts. This also gives them a chance to become familiar with and use the park."

Before the partnership, the gym and arts center would be unused several hours each day. Now the buildings are filled with activity during those hours, and students enjoy their walks through Garfield Park as they move from the arts center to the family center.

"Sometimes, the natural partnerships are in your own backyard. This is proving true with our relationship with Fountain Square Academy," said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry. "We have extended the hours of our wonderful art and family centers we operate to work

with the school.

This is a true example of outreach, accommodating the kids who live and study in our schools with the arts and recreational spaces of Indy Parks."

Indy Parks makes these facilities available to the Fountain Square Academy at a 50 percent discounted rental rate, and looks forward to using this model for other partnerships with schools across Marion County.

Organizations interested in partnering with Indy Parks should contact Administrator of School and Family Programs Leslie Power at (317) 327-7015. For questions about Fountain Square Academy, please contact Director of Public Relations and Marketing Jeff Schafer at (317) 713-4211. ●



Students from Fountain Square Academy participate in PE warm up exercises at Garfield Park. Before the partnership, the gym and arts center were unused for hours each day. Now, the buildings are filled with activities during those hours.

Save-Earn-Learn: Indy's Campaign for Financial Fitness

Encouraging and Educating Hoosiers to Build Their Assets and Become Financially Fit



First Lady Winnie Ballard launched Save-Earn-Learn: Indy's Campaign for Financial Fitness—the first citywide initiative designed to connect residents with financial fitness resources in October 2008.

Save-Earn-Learn: Indy's Campaign for Financial Fitness has ramped up its efforts to provide **free** tax preparation service to low and moderate income Indianapolis residents and to provide the opportunity to learn more about how to become more financially fit.

Provided by the Indianapolis Asset Building Coalition as a way for residents to not only "Save" their money by providing **free** tax preparation, but they also "**Earn**" 100 percent of their refund.

During their tax preparation, individuals have the opportunity to "**Learn**" about asset building and easy ways to become more financially fit.

"This is a great opportunity for Indianapo-

lis residents to receive free tax preparation at local community centers and learn ways to become more financially stable," said Indianapolis First Lady Winnie Ballard. "We want them to be able to save and manage the money they have earned to become more financially fit."

Indianapolis and Marion County are not immune to the tough economic climate gripping the nation. Though this initiative was not started as a direct result of the economic downturn, it is clear that now is a perfect time for everyone to do what they can to maximize their assets and use what they have in the most efficient way possible.

Assistance is available to those who live in Indianapolis filing their 2008 income tax

returns and to those who qualify to receive possible refunds through the Earned Income Tax Credit, a federal tax break designed to help people who work and are low income. Indianapolis residents that qualify include families with children who have an annual income less than \$45,000 and also available to individuals without children with income less than \$20,000.

Taxpayers directly received 100 percent of their refund with no fees or interest.

As a way to increase services, a total of 10 tax sites will be open throughout the tax season. Tax sites include: Christamore House, Concord Neighborhood Center, Faye Bickard Glick Neighborhood Center at Crooked Creek, Hawthorne Community Center, John H. Boner Community Center, Martin Luther King Community Center, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, Oasis Christian Development Corporation, Shepherd Community Center, and Southeast Community Services.

First Lady Winnie Ballard has been volunteering at multiple tax

sites throughout the city.

"These experiences have reinforced my passion for financial literacy. When I visit the community centers, I learn how important the need for financial education is in our city," she said.

The decision to open multiple sites throughout Indianapolis was not only a matter of convenience for the public, but was also a goal set by Mrs. Ballard as a way to help encourage and educate individuals to build their assets so they can have a better life.

Each site will prepare taxes free of charge, but each taxpayer will have the opportunity to learn more about asset building.

While filing a tax return, individuals will be able to take advantage of accessing their credit report, open checking or savings accounts, and learn more about financial literacy workshops offered by the Indianapolis Asset Building Coalition and their partners. ●

Stay Safe: Protect yourself and others from Overflows...

When as little as a quarter inch of rain falls, sewers in older parts of Indianapolis can overflow, sending untreated rainwater and sewage into our streams and causing public health hazards.

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works encourages you and others to take the following protective actions:

- Avoid contact with urban streams, especially during and three days after rain or snow melts.
- Always wash your hands after contacting water in urban streams, especially before eating, drinking or preparing food.
- Alter recreational activities to ones that do not include contact with urban waterways. For example, walk or bike along a stream rather than swimming, wading or water skiing.
- Use a waterless hand sanitizer at outings that occur near urban streams.
- For more information, call the Sewer Overflow Hotline at (317) 327-1643 or register to receive raw sewage e-mail alerts year-round at www.indycleanstreams.org.



City Planners Use Child's Toy for Urban Landscaping



Planners in the Department of Metropolitan Development are using Lego pieces to help visualize how the urban landscape will look in 3D.

When most people think of Legos they picture kids building imaginary toys from airplanes to dinosaurs.

But Indianapolis planners in the Department of Metropolitan Development are using Lego pieces to help visualize

how the urban landscape will look in 3D. The completed map will be used to help planners make design guidelines in commercial districts.

"We used Legos because they matched the scale of the satellite maps," said principal planner Bob Wilch. Even though the approach is low tech Wilch explains, "A tabletop map is much better than a computer because it's easier for more people to participate in the planning process." Wilch spent

about four days in his garage workshop making the model and cutting out the wood shapes.

The first area is in Broad Ripple. The next will be 38th and Illinois street. In order to save set up time when transporting the map, a metal base is used and strip magnets are glued to the bottom of the buildings.

So the next time you see your kids playing with Legos just think they could be future planners. ●

Calendar of Events/Meetings • April 2009

This calendar represents a general compilation of community events/meetings. For a complete list of meetings in your neighborhood, please visit www.indy.gov/neighborhoods and click on your Neighborhood Liaison's home page.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please check with your Neighborhood Liaison to verify meeting details.

Wednesday April 1

IMPD NW Task Force Mtg.

IMPD NW District HQ 3821 Industrial Blvd.; 6 p.m.

Greater Citizen's Coalition of Martindale-Brightwood

Douglass Family Center; 1616 E. 25th St.; 6 p.m.

Thursday April 2

Mayor's Night Out—Perry Township

Christ United Methodist Church 8540 US 31 S
6-7 p.m.

Citizens Neighborhood Coalition

601 E. 17th St. Indy Parks; 6 p.m.

Riverside Civic

Riverside Family Center; 6:30 p.m.

Lincolnwood Neighborhood Assoc.

Clermont Town Hall; 9049 Crawfordsville Rd.; 7 p.m.

Nora Community Council

Nora Library; 8625 Guilford Ave.; 7 p.m.

Friday April 3

Mid North Public Safety

42nd College Branch Library; 10 a.m.

Saturday April 4

FTCC Pictures with Easter Bunny

Franklin Twp Library; 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

CPAC

4526 Wentworth CP Church; 7 p.m.

Monday April 6

Near East Side Community Organization (NESCO) Community Policing Committee

Englewood Christian Church

57 N Rural St.; 5:30 p.m.

Near East Side Community Organization (NESCO) Transportation Committee

Englewood Christian Church

57 N Rural St.; 6:30 p.m.

Friends and Neighbors Block Club

2815 Sutherland; 6:30 p.m.

Bates-Hendricks

Immanuel Cof C—402 E Prospect; 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 7

Keystone-Millersville Neighborhood Assoc.

3838 N. Rural Street Marion Co. Health Dpt.
6 p.m.

Wednesday April 8

Binford Redevelopment & Growth (BRAG)

Divine Savior Church; 7315 E. 75th St.; 7 p.m.

Thursday April 9

Mapleton Fall Creek Neighborhood Assoc.

Phillips Temple 210 E. 34th; 6:30 p.m.

Flamingo East & West Drives Neighborhood Assoc.; Eagle Nest Clubhouse; 8075 Teel Way 7 p.m.

North Square Neighborhood Association

Arsenal Café, 874 Virginia Avenue; 7 p.m.

Monday April 13

Green Week Begins

(April 13-17) Stay tuned for a series of announcements from the Mayor's Office/City Departments and Agencies

Brightwood Concerned Citizens

Brightwood Library; 2435 N Sherman Dr. 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday April 14

Franklin Twp Chamber of Commerce

LaQuinta Inn, 5201 Victory Dr.; 11:30 a.m.

Mayor's Quarterly Budget Review

University of Indianapolis Campus- Lilly Science
Hall/ Room 210; 5 p.m.

Irvington Development Organization

338 S Arlington Ave.; old school 58 bldg; 6 p.m.

St Joseph Neighborhood Association

Library Central Branch; Goodrich Houk Meeting
Room - 40 E St Clair St; 7 p.m.

Rocky Ripple Association

930 W 54th St.; 7 p.m.

Wednesday April 15

Concord Business Alliance

Sacred Heart Parrish Building-1125 S Meridian
8 a.m.

Thursday April 16

Devington CDC

Zion Hope Church; 5950 E. 46th St.; 6 p.m.

30th St. Corridor Development

Cardinal Ritter H.S.; 3360 W 30th St; 7 p.m.

Friday April 17

Downtown Condo Tour

5—9 p.m.

www.indianapolismonthly.com

Saturday April 18

Downtown Condo Tour

11 a.m.—4 p.m.

www.indianapolismonthly.com

Sunday April 19

Neighbors

530 W 30th Northside New Era; 6 p.m.

Monday April 20

Chapel Hill Village Association

10th & Girls School Rd.; Ben Davis 7th & 8th
Grade Center; 7 p.m.

Sargent Road Association Annual Meeting

Mud Creek Barn; 9740 E. 86th St.; 7:30 p.m.

Garfield Neighbors Assoc.

Shelby Street Library—2502 S Shelby St.; 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday April 21

Devonshire V Annual Meeting

George's Neighborhood Grill; 6935 Lake Plaza
Dr.; 6 p.m.

St Clair Place Redevelopment Plan Public Input

Thomas D Gregg School 15

2302 E Michigan St.; 6:30 p.m.

Crown Hill Neighborhood Assoc.

3200 N. Capitol-Coppin Chapel; 7 p.m.

Southwest Perry Civic Assoc.

IFD Fire Station; 1925 W. Edgewood; 7 p.m.

Farley Neighborhood Association

1129 N. Girls School Rd; Chapelwood Elementary
7 p.m.

Thursday April 23

ELSA Weed & Seed

Covenant Baptist Church; 4201 W. 30th St; 6 p.m.

Friday April 24

West Side Neighborhood Assoc.

1801 Lafayette Rd; Municipal Gardens; 6:30 p.m.

Saturday April 25

Great Indy Clean Up Kick-Off

Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School parking lot,
3960 Meadow Dr.; 8:00 a.m.

Franklin Twp Cleanup

8822 Southeastern Ave.; 9 a.m.

Front Porch Alliance Fatherhood Summit

IPS School #51; 3426 E. Roosevelt Ave. 10 a.m.
—2 p.m. Email dharieto@indygov.org for more info

Greater Southport Business Alliance

Southport Comm. Bldg; 6901 Derbyshire Rd.; 7 p.m.

Monday April 27

Decatur Civic Council

5108 S. High School Rd; 7 p.m.

Association of Irvington Merchants

338 S Arlington Ave.; old school 58 bldg; 7 p.m.

West Indianapolis Neigh. Cong.

Mary Rigg Center—1920 W Morris; 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 28

Lafayette Square Area Coalition (LSAC) Mtg.

Westview Health Plex 3660 Guion Rd. 2nd floor
5:30 p.m.

Chatham Arch Neighborhood Association

Firefighters Union Hall; 748 Massachusetts Ave.
7 p.m.

Dawnbury-Keystone Preservation Assoc.

Glendale Library; 6101 N Keystone Ave.; 7 p.m.

Wednesday April 29

Eastgate Neighborhood Association

501 N Post Rd.; 7 p.m.

Thursday April 30

IMPD North Dist Apt Manager Roundtable

Lake Side Point; Nora; 9100 N College Ave. 9 a.m.

West Eastwood Neighborhood Organization

7721 Cullen Dr.; 6:30 p.m.

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